Scans: aliasanonyme Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: paula Typesetting: fencer_x

5 years ago
On that day...
...I experienced my first instance of love at first sight.
初恋
Chapter 2
Kazuki Rai
一樹らい

She lived in this weird, castle-like house...
...situated at the foot of the mountain that I saw every day on my way to school.
WELL, NO MATTER WHO IT IS,
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
I'M TOTALLY GONNA INFIL-TRATE IT TODAY!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE LIVE IN THERE...
MAYBE A DEMON LORD??
climb
I'M GONNA KICK HIS ASS!!

BWUMP
CRASH
OWW!

HEY, YOU!
DO YOU LIVE HERE?
YUP.
OH WOW!
ARE YOU HURT?
NAH, I'M GOOD! I'M PRETTY STURDY!
YOU'RE STRONG!
SHE'S LIKE A PRIN-CESS!
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
EH?
YOUR NAME!
WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?

**Note:** 'Hime' means 'princess' in Japanese.

HERO...
HIRONO.
HERO...?
WELL, I GUESS MY PALS CALL ME THAT TOO!
The moment...
...she called me that...
SO YOU'RE... MY HERO?
THE HERO AND THE MAGIC RING

A fever rushed through me...
...and power welled up within me.
Y..
I'M YOUR HERO!
YEAH, I AM!

H-HEY!
FURTHER UP THIS PATH,
THERE'S A TREE WITH A LOT OF STAG BEETLES!
IT'S A SECRET, BUT I'LL SHARE IT JUST WITH YOU!
?
GONG
shake
shake

MO-THER.
SAYS THAT I MUSTN'T GO OUTSIDE
ARE YOU WATCHIN' THE HOUSE FOR HER?
NO...
IT'S JUST THE RULE...
SHE'D BE REALLY ANGRY IF SHE FOUND OUT.
EH?
WHY?
YOU CAN'T GO OUT FOR EVEN A LITTLE BIT?

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR HER TO NEVER LET YOU LEAVE!
...HEY, YEAH!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BEING HELD PRISONER HERE!
YOU'RE A CAPTIVE PRINCESS!

EH?
C'MON, HURRY! BEFORE THEY FIND OUT!
YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE TOO, DON'T YOU, PRINCESS?
YOU WANT TO PLAY OUTSIDE, RIGHT?
AM I WRONG?!

LET'S RUN AWAY!
TOGETHER!

GRAB
I felt like a real-life hero, now that I'd rescued my princess.
I was on cloud nine.
SLAP
But all too soon, my playtime as a hero met a swift GAME OVER.

WAIT!
ARE YOU HER MOM??
WE WERE JUST PLAYING! WHAT'S THE HARM IN THAT--
MOMO? LIKE PRINCESS PEACH??
YES, WE'VE JUST FOUND HER. IT SEEMS SHE WAS PLAYING WITH A BOY.
LET'S GO, MOMO.
Th hurt

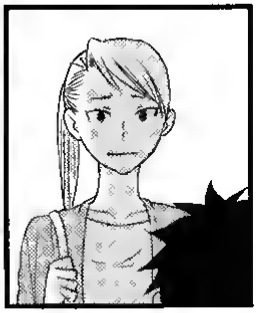
IF YOU KIDNAP MY CHILD AGAIN,
I WILL KILL YOU.
!!
YANK
M--MOTH-
COUGH!
Momo!
My princess...
...was being held prisoner by a fearsome witch.
BRING AROUND THE CAR!
MO-MO! MO-MO?!
COUGH! COUGH! COUGH! COUGH! COUGH!
AH, YES MA'AM!

THE YOUNG LADY IS ILL
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN RATHER WEAK, AND SHE CAN'T UNDERGO SURGERY.
...THE DOCTORS SAY...
...THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE LONG LEFT.

.....
I'M SORRY

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
nod

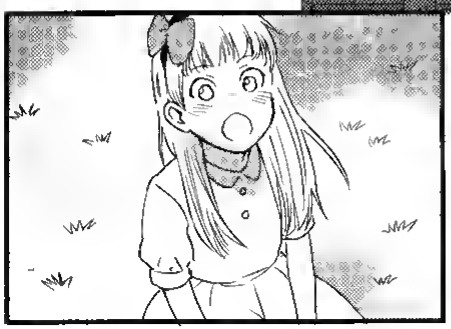
SHE SPENDS MOST OF HER DAY IN BED, SAVE FOR MEAL TIMES.
THOUGH HERS IS A MENTAL ILLNESS.
THE MISTRESS IS ILL ALSO.



THE DOCTORS HAVE SAID IT'S PROBABLY BETTER FOR HER TO GET SOME FRESH AIR AND BUILD UP HER STAMINA INSTEAD OF STAYING COOPED UP ALL THE TIME.
THOUGH OF COURSE SHE MUSTN'T EXERT HERSELF.
EH?
...Y'KNOW?
SO... IF YOU MAKE SURE TO COME BACK BEFORE NIGHTFALL, MY MISTRESS PROBABLY WON'T NOTICE YOU'RE GONE...
THE YOUNG LADY HAS SPENT EVERY DAY LOOKING UP AT THAT FENCE...
JUST IMAGINING, CHEERFULLY, WHAT LIFE IS LIKE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HAPPY SHE IS...
...NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE
YOU CAME TO THIS HOUSE AFTER YOU GOT MARRIED, RIGHT MOM?
UMM,
.....
?
YUU-CHAN! YOU'RE BACK?
YOU'RE AWFULLY LATE!
SHUT

I'M...
AND--
GONNA BE A DOCTOR.
Oh my!!
WHAT'S THIS? YOU GOT A GIRL YOU LIKE, YUUSA?
YEAH.
INDEED! MOST GIRLS WILL LEAVE THEIR HOMES TO LIVE IN A NEW PLACE ONCE THEY GET MARRIED!

This...
YOU CAN DO IT, YUUSA!!
THAT'S AMAZING!
...I could think of to become her real hero.
...was the best way...



HEY THERE!
HULLO!
YOU'RE FEELING BETTER NOW?
Yup!
ARE YOU GONNA...
...TAKE ME OUTSIDE AGAIN?
JUST FOR A LITTLE
Once summer vacation started, I went to visit my princess every single day.
On days she felt up to it, we snuck out to explore the forest for a bit.
She didn't know much about anything really.
So on our walks, I explained things to my princess while she peppered me with questions, her eyes sparkling.

I was terrified that some day, somehow, the witch would find out about us...
But when my princess smiled at me, I felt absolutely invincible.
And when she held my hand, I felt like I could have worked any magic.

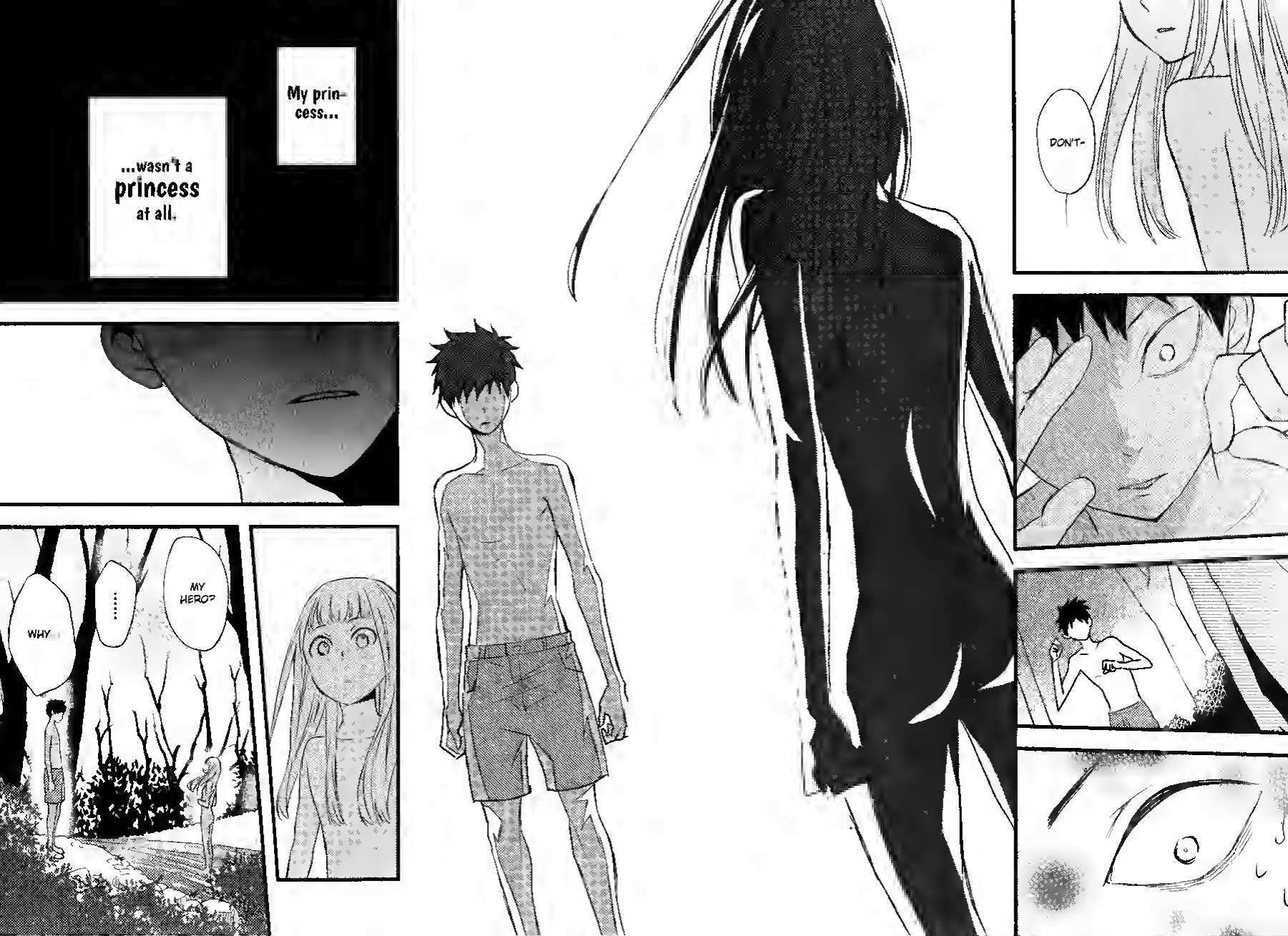
WHAT'S THIS?
A RING
ISN'T IT COOL HOW RED IT IS? IT'S MY TREASURE!
I'M GIVING IT TO YOU, MY HERO!

HERE.

SO I'M SURE IT'LL GRANT YOU YOUR WISH!
I SEE...
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA WISH FOR?
ARE YOU SURE?
YUP!
I HAS THE POWER TO GRANT WISHES WHEN HELD BY SOME-ONE WITH A STRONG HEART!
It's fake, isn't it?
I CAN MAKE IT COME TRUE MYSELF, SO I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH!
EH?
HMM, YOU MAKE MY WISH FOR ME!
OH MAN, I AM SO COOL!!
I WISH TO BE ABLE...
...TO GO LOTS OF PL_CES WITH MY HERO...
YOU'RE SO COOL, MY HERO!!
OKAY THEN! I'LL MAKE A WISH...

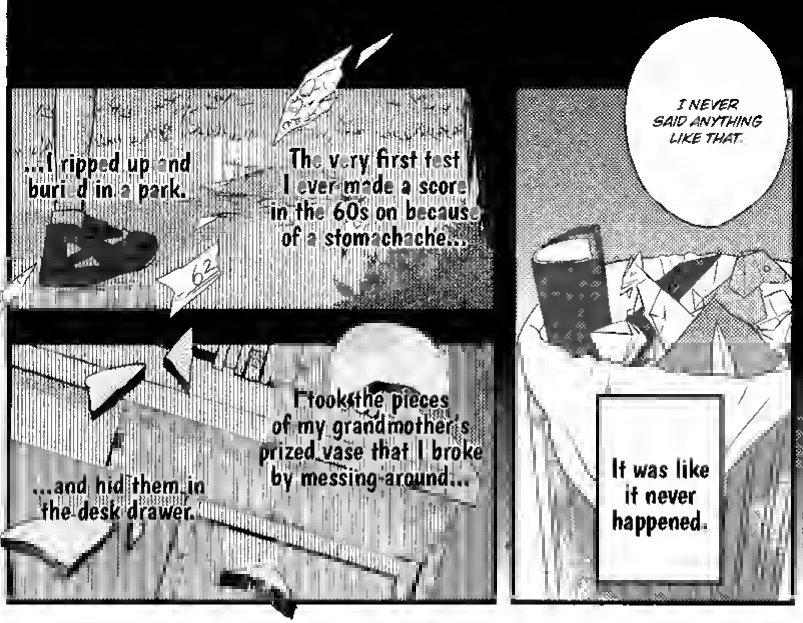
And that was when
I made up my mind.

It was my solemn duty...
...to save my princess from this unfortunate life she'd been living.
I PROMISE...
...THAT I'LL SHOW YOU ALL SORTS OF OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD!
PRINCESS, THIS WAY!
THIS RIGHT HERE! THIS IS A STREAM!
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY JUST WADE YOUR...
YEAH, BUT OUR CLOTHES WILL GET WET.
!!!
It's a bath?!
NO, IT'S A STREAM.
Wow!!
Can we go in?
WA-WAI-
GAH!!
Splash
Splash


My princess...
...wasn't a princess at all.
WHY...
.....
MY HERO?
DON'T-

!
MY-
YOU WEAR A SKIRT.
...YOU EVEN TALK LIKE A GIRL.
YOU'RE DISGUSTING.

...made fun of me, calling it "girly".
But the other kids in my classroom...
In my third year of elementary school,
I was into origami.
THAT'S NEWS TO ME
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SAID YOU WANTED IT
BLOOM
tap
tap
DON'T NEED IT
1
OPEN
YUU-KUN, I BOUGHT YOU SOME ORIGAMI!


...I ripped up and buried in a park.
The very first test I ever made a score in the 60s on because of a stomachache...
I took the pieces of my grandmother's prized vase that I broke by messing around...
...and hid them in the desk drawer.
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
It was like it never happened.

A hero must be an upstanding presence that everyone can look up to and respect.

That's why, whenever I did something that conflicted with that, I developed the habit of erasing all evidence.

Even if it meant outright lying.

For me, the most important thing was staying a "hero".

OH! WELCOME BACK!
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
WHERE WERE YOU?
OH! WERE YOU PLAYING WITH THAT GIRL?
HOHO! I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT FROM FUJITA-KUN'S MOTHER!
HOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING ON FOREST DATES WITH A GIRL RECENTLY!
SO, WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
DOES SHE GO TO YOUR SCHOOL?
YOU SHOULD INVITE HER-
NEVER HEARD OF HER
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A GIRL.

I cared less about why he'd been dressing like a girl or why he tricked me...
...than the fact that I had fallen in love with another guy. It filled me with shame.
SNIFF
I felt like I'd done something terrible.
Terrible as a hero.
Terrible as a man.
Terrible as a human.
SNIFF
And because it made me feel so horrible...
It felt like the most inappropriate thing I'd ever done my whole life.
SNIFF
BEEP
Would you like to delete your saved data?
▶ YES NO
...and wiped it from my mind.
I took my time with my princess, my memories of my princess, her existence itself...

To Be Continued